

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
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R 231300Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0608
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL BILBAO
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS BORDEAUX 0050

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: BASQUE PRISONERS FREED IN SOUTHWEST OF FRANCE

1. THE 12 BASQUE MILITANTS INCARCERATED ON THE ILE D YEU
WERE FREED ON ORDER OF THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ON
FEBRUARY 18. HOWEVER, THEIR RELEASE WAS CONDITIONED UPON
A SIGNED WRITTEN ENGAGEMENT, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING MAIN
POINTS:

2. FIRST, TO STRICTLY OBSERVE THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE
2 OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION TO CONFORM TO FRENCH LAW AND REGULATIONS,
SECOND, TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION WHICH COULD THREATEN PUBLIC
ORDER AND TO NOT CROSS THE FRENCH SPANISH BORDER ILLEGALLY,
AND THIRD, TO RESPECT THE RESIDENCE PROHIBITION IN THE
DEPARTMENTS OF THE PYRENEES- ATLANTIQUES, HAUTE PYRENEES,
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HAUTE GARONNE, ARIEGE AND PYRENEES ORIENTALES. MININT HAS
MADE CLEAR THAT ANY VIOLATION OF THESE ENGAGEMENTS WILL LEAD
THE MINISTRY TO RECONSIDER THE STATUS OF THOSE FOUND GUILTY
OF SUCH ACTS.

3. ONE OF THE BASQUE MILITANTS TOLD THE PRESS THAT THEY WERE
OBLIGED TO SIGN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR S WRITTEN ENGAGEMENT,

BUT THAT THEY WERE NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH IT SINCE IT WAS
ARBITRARY AND THAT THEY INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE BASQUE REGION.
IN FACT, TWO OF THE BASQUE MILITANTS WERE INTERCEPTED BY THE
FRENCH POLICE ON THE 19TH OF FEBRUARY IN BAYONNE. THEY WERE
SENT BACK INTO THE LANDES DEPARTMENT. IN ANOTHER SECURITY
MEASURE, A NUMBER OF SPANISH BASQUES WHO WANTED TO ATTEND A
DEMONSTRATION ON FEBRUARY 20 ON THE ILE D YEU ORGANIZED BY
BASQUE NATIONALISTS WERE NOT AUTHORIZED TO CROSS THE FRENCH
BORDER. THE DEMONSTRATION DID TAKE PLACE AT SABLES D OLLONNE
IN THE VENDEE DEPARTMENT AND APPROXIMATELY 300,0390)E ATTENDED.
THE INITIAL PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO PROTEST THE
INCARCERATION OF THE BASQUE MILITANTS, BUT EVEN AFTER THE
LIBERATION OF THE LATTER THE DEMONSTRATORS DECIDED TO GO AHEAD
WITH A FOLKLORIC TRIBUTE TO THE BASQUE MILITANTS. A LAWYER
FOR THE BASQUE MILITANTS ADDRESSED THE DEMONSTRATORS AND CALLED
FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE NON-RESIDENCY CLAUSE PROHIBITING
THE PRESENCE OF THE BASQUE MILITANTS IN THE FIVE FRENCH
DEPARTMENTS BORDERING SPAIN.DJEREJIAN

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